

Appl. S.N. 09/774,530
Amdt. Dated Sept. 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 3, 2004

RD-27,947

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2004 wherein claims 1-14 were allowed and claims 19-21 and 34 were objected to as being independent upon a rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Also in the Office action claims 15-17, 22-28, 30-33, 35-41, 43-66 and 68-73 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over Polichar et al (US 6,205,199) and claims 18, 29, 42 and 67 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Polichar et al and further in view of Aratani (US 6,249, 503). In this amendment, claims 15 and 27 were amended and claims 19, 34 and 40-73 were canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-18, 20-33 and 35-39 remain pending in this application. In light of this amendment, prompt reconsideration and allowance is respectfully solicited.


Claims 15 and 27 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 19 and 34, respectfully. Claim 20 has been amended to depend from claim 15. Claims 16-18, 20-33 and 35-39 depend directly or indirectly from claims 15 and 27, and therefore are allowable by dependency.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to rewrite the claims in independent form and the cancellation of claims 40-73 now place the pending claims in condition for allowance and, further, the rejections under 35 USC 102(e) and 103(a) have been obviated.

In view of the foregoing amendment and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,


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